GREEN APPLE DAY

To kick off the month of December, Green Apple Day was a school-wide day of education for kids and staff about the current recycling and composting guidelines. The classroom activities included reading books about recycling and reuse, looking at posters, discussions, and sorting various recyclables, compostables, and trash. The interns led these activities, supervised by Janet Fuchs, our Environmental Education Director.

Here are some of the essential questions and science concepts we studied as a community:

- How are materials that have been properly recycled/composted/thrown out treated in their respective facilities and why do we need to properly dispose of them?
- How can Lemberg students, staff, and parents work together to improve sustainability measures for energy use, water use, transportation and indoor air quality?
- How does correctly identifying and discarding recyclable, compostable, and non-recyclable materials influence how sustainable Lemberg Children’s Center is?

Two waste audits were completed, one before and one after Green Apple Day. The biggest change was that the amount of compost increased significantly. We can still do more to reduce and divert waste. Annie Huang and the environmental interns organized and designed the activities, posters and flyer, and reported our scores to the USGBC. They were great!
Building a Robot from recyclables

The final project for Green Apple Day was to reuse some of our recyclables in a fun art project: building a robot. Voyagers and Navigators worked together in small groups to construct and decorate their imaginative recycled robot.

The finished robot with some of its proud makers

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

Worm Study and Understanding Fertilizer

Throughout the winter, we care for our worm bin indoors, which provides many opportunities to study the worms in various stages of growth, as well as to make fertilizer from the worm castings to feed our indoor plants.

A close-up look at red wiggler worm anatomy

Written by the Environmental Education Team
This month’s worm findings were particularly interesting. We found tiny babies, egg cases, and adult worms carrying their egg rings before shedding them. We could see the digestive tracts of the transparent baby worms. We observed how the worms move, hide from light, curl up around each other and try to climb out of their dish. The kids are always really careful when touching them, and glad to return them to the safety of their dark, damp home.

Then we visited the classrooms and the office to feed the ficus trees, succulents and other indoor plants with nutrient-rich “worm juice”.

Comparing adult and baby worms

To make the fertilizer, we put some worm castings into the watering cans with water.

Making fertilizer from worm castings

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

In December, we received generous donations from the FS Foundation, Feinberg Family and Village Bank to support environmental education programs in 2020 and 2021. We are deeply grateful for this capacity building support, which will enable us to expand our community outreach, add edible plantings in the playground, and build an outdoor sink and workstation for food projects. We still need to raise $10,000 to fund the program from January – June 2020. Please consider giving this month through our secure Donorbox platform: https://donorbox.org/environmental-education-at-lemberg